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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT



DECLASS REVIEW by NIMA/DOD

# NASSER CHEMICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PLANT

## ABU ZABAL, EGYPT

AUGUST 1965  
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6 PAGES

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## NASSER CHEMICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PLANT ABU ZABAL, EGYPT

### INTRODUCTION

The Nasser Chemical and Pharmaceutical Plant is located approximately 3.5 nautical miles (nm) east of Abu Zabal and approximately 15 nm northeast of Cairo, Egypt, at 30-14-50N 31-25-15E. Abu Zabal Explosives Plant No 18 is situated immediately to the west and a small industrial plant is located 0.5 nm to the southwest (Figure 1).

No activity at the future plant site was seen on photography of [ ] By [ ] when the plant was next observed, most of the major buildings and a plant se-

curity wall had been constructed. Although poor-quality photography of [ ] precluded a determination of the plant's operational capability, it was apparent that construction was continuing. Photography [ ] revealed the plant to be in operation.

Recent large-scale vertical and oblique photography, together with [ ] [ ] photography, showed the plant to be in current operation as evidenced by the continuous movement of trucks and buses, changing water levels of cisterns, and blackening of the steamplant smokestack, although scattered construction activity is continuing.

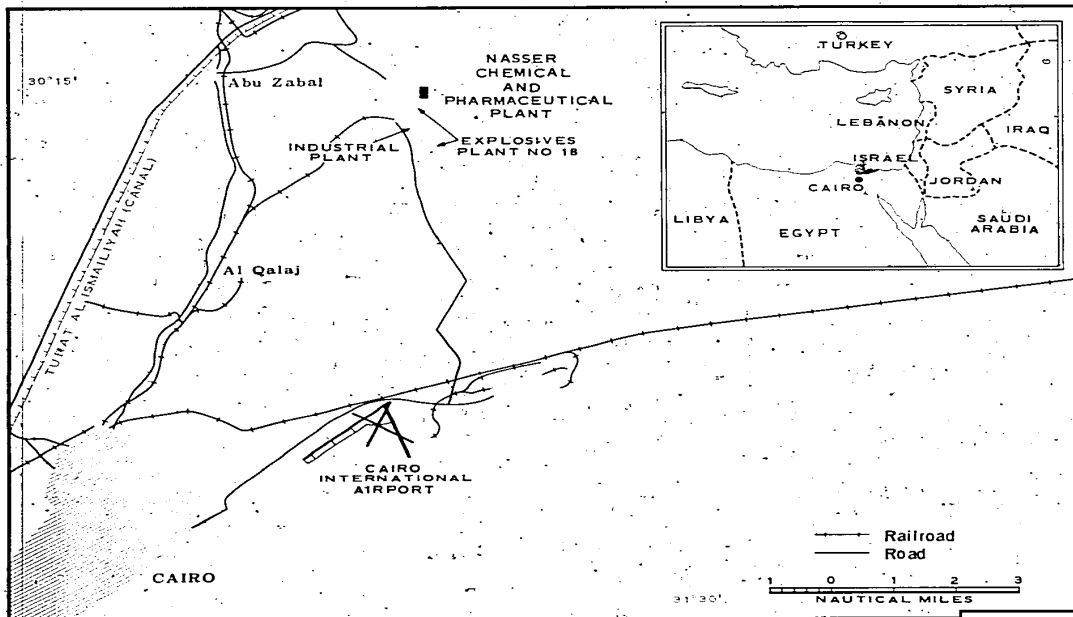


FIGURE 1. LOCATION MAP.

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Collateral reports indicate that the plant was under construction in [REDACTED] and was expected to be in operation by late [REDACTED] for the basic manufacture of antibiotics, such as penicillin, chloromycetin, streptomycin, salicylates, and sulphamide compounds. Penicillin was reported to have been first produced at the plant on [REDACTED] and the production of other pharmaceuticals was expected to follow shortly. 1-5/

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#### DESCRIPTION OF PLANT

The plant is situated on the edge of the desert on slightly sloping, sandy terrain (Figures 2 and 3). Groves of trees have been planted around the site to halt windblown sand. Macadam roads serve the plant from the north and southwest. The entire plant is secured by a wall with guard towers spaced to permit easy inspection of the perimeter. Guardhouses are located at 4 entrances, and a gatehouse is located at the main entrance. A gatehouse is also located near a walled support building on the northern access road. A car barn and fenced open storage area are on the southwest side of the plant near the main gate and principal access road; the road skirts the adjacent Abu Zabal Explosives Plant No 18, 6/ but no direct access or connection is apparent. The same road serves a small nearby industrial plant, probably in the final stages of construction. The industrial plant and the chemical and pharmaceutical plant may possibly be associated. Water is supplied from wells on the edge of the desert located along the northeast side of the plant. These wells are interconnected by a pipeline which leads to a centrally located pumphouse; the pumphouse is probably connected to the plant via an underground pipeline. A system of cisterns, aqueducts, and underground pipelines from a reservoir and pumphouses at

the western corner of the plant provides irrigation for the groves of trees; this system possibly supplies water to the plant also.

The plant contains an elaborate water purification facility in the northernmost corner consisting of 2 water standpipes (items 5 and 10, Figure 2), a storage tank, 2 water purification cisterns (item 6), a small settling basin, a large semiburied covered treatment basin, and a service building. Probable water pumphouses are spaced throughout the plant which would indicate an elaborate underground water system. It is possible that some of the water used by the plant is treated and re-used.

A steamplant, which is probably gas fired, is located in the southern corner of the plant. A tall stack is nearby. A steamline leads from the northwestern end of the steamplant to most of the major production buildings.

#### PRODUCTION FACILITIES

The Nasser Chemical and Pharmaceutical Plant contains 10 large- and 5 medium-sized production buildings. Most are multistory, modern, generally rectangular structures with numerous roof ventilators and exposed ductwork and pipelines for air conditioning and filtering. They resemble the type of structures suitable for the production of pharmaceuticals and high-grade chemicals. Most are interconnected by steamlines and other overhead pipelines. None of the buildings are separately secured or isolated or give any outward indication of the production of unusually toxic compounds.

A group of horizontal storage tanks and drums in open storage is located near the center of the plant, and additional, probable horizontal storage or processing tanks covered by a shed (item 14) are located nearby. Processing tanks of unusual configuration are ad-

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[REDACTED]

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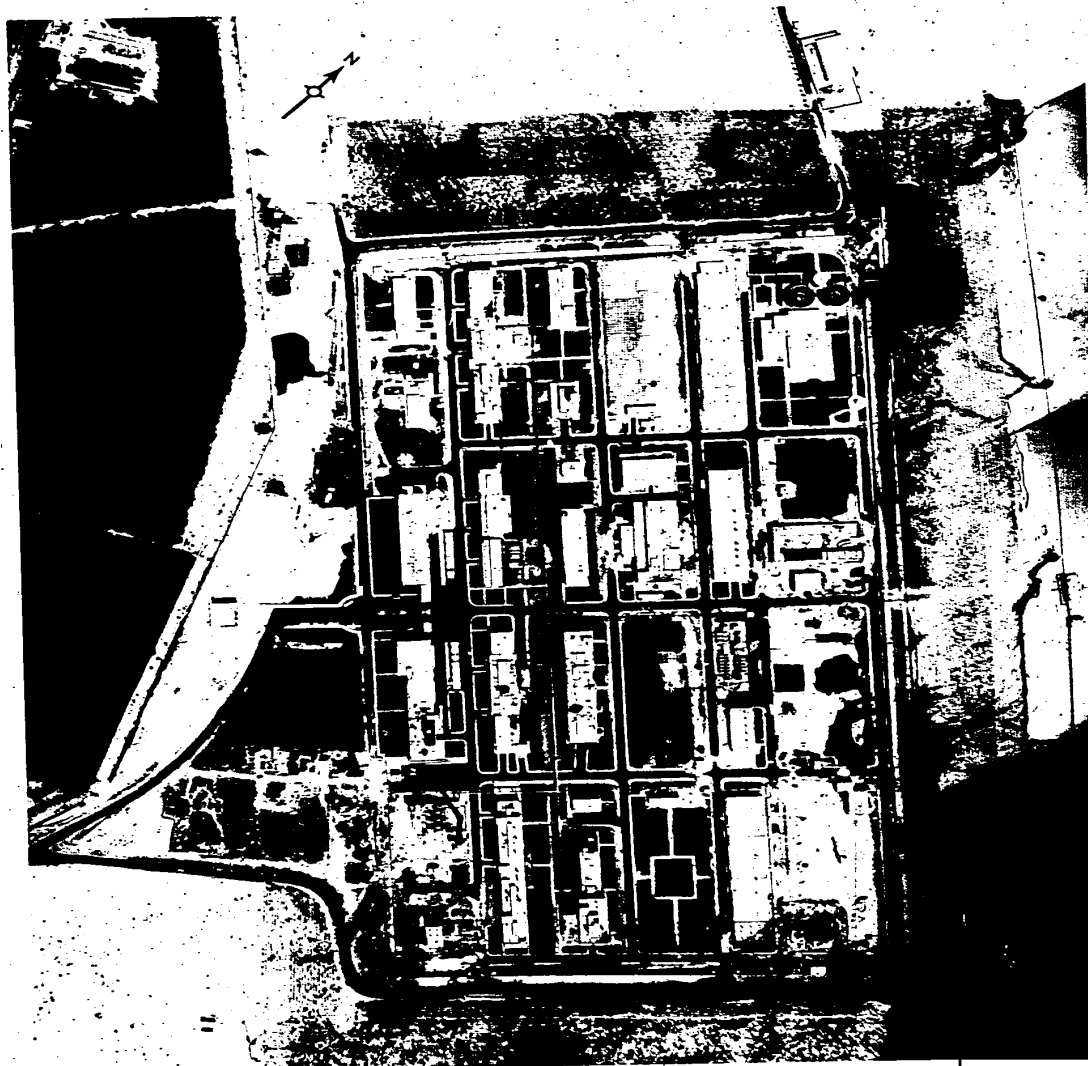


FIGURE 2. PHOTOMOSAIC OF NASSER CHEMICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PLANT, ABU ZABAL, EGYPT.

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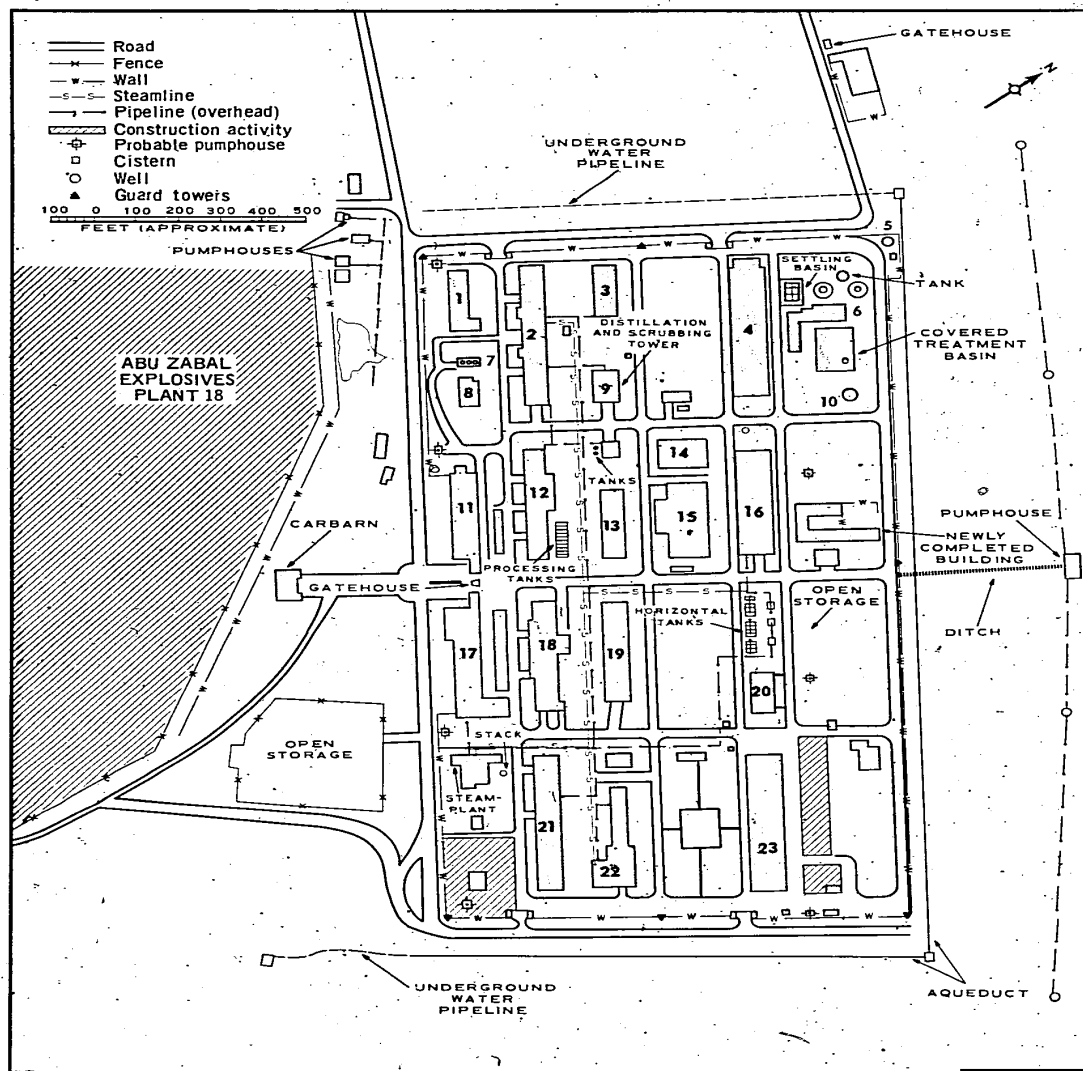


FIGURE 3. LAYOUT OF NASSER CHEMICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PLANT.

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jacent and connected by pipeline to a large production building (item 12). Covered distillation/scrubbing towers (item 9) and a bank of forced-draft cooling towers (item 7) are located in the western portion of the plant. Two large administration/laboratory buildings (items 11 and 17) flank the main entrance.

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On [ ] photography of [ ] a newly constructed building was observed. This building, located near the water treatment plant, has a walled compound at 1 end. On the same photography continued construction activity near the steamplant and in the easternmost corner of the plant is evident. Figure 4 is an oblique view of the plant as of [ ]

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#### CONCLUSION

The Nasser Chemical and Pharmaceutical Plant contains facilities that appear capable of producing pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals.

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Table 1. Descriptions and Dimensions of Principal Structures at the Nasser Chemical and Pharmaceutical Plant.  
(Items are keyed to Figure 3)

Item	Description	Dimensions (ft)
1	Production bldg	155* x 75* x 15h
2	Production bldg	410 x 60* x 45h*
3	Production bldg	160 x 50 x 20h
4	Production bldg	395* x 85* x 10h
5	Water standpipe	25 diam x 75h
6	Water purification cisterns (2)	60 diam x 15h
7	Bank of forced-draft cooling towers	40 x 25 x 20h
8	Production bldg	80 x 40 x 10h
9	Covered distillation/scrubbing towers	90* x 75* x 45h*
10	Water standpipe	25 diam x 145h
11	Administration/laboratory bldg	310* x 55* x 40h*
12	Production bldg	350 x 70* x 35h*
13	Production bldg	215 x 40 x 25h
14	Shed probably covering horizontal tanks	115 x 80 x 10h
15	Production bldg	210 x 140 x 20h
16	Production bldg	320 x 50 x 10h
17	Administration/laboratory bldg	380* x 75* x 40h*
18	Production bldg	345* x 75* x 35h*
19	Production bldg	315 x 60 x 40h
20	Production bldg	115 x 70 x 15h
21	Production bldg	415 x 50 x 35h*
22	Production bldg	305* x 100* x 30h*
23	Production bldg	430 x 85 x 15h

\*Largest or overall dimension.



FIGURE 4. PHOTOMOSAIC OF NASSER CHEMICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PLANT.

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REFERENCES

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MAPS OR CHARTS

SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0447-12HL, 1st ed. May 62, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

25X1C

TAC. US Air Target Mosaic, Series 50, Sheet 0447-12/1MA, 1st ed, Oct 60, scale 1:50,000 (SECRET)

DOCUMENTS

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2. CIA. *Societe El Nasr, Soviet Sponsored Company for the Manufacture of Fine Chemicals*, 3 Apr 61 (CONFIDENTIAL)

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3. CIA. *Status of Soviet Pharmaceutical Plant*, 22 Dec 61 (CONFIDENTIAL)

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5. *Arab Review*. "Penicillin Produced," Feb-Mar 63 (UNCLASSIFIED)

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6. NPIC. *Abu Zabal Explosives Plant No 18, Abu Zabal, Egypt*, Jul 65 (TOP SECRET)

REQUIREMENT

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NPIC PROJECT

12034/64 (partial answer)

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